

Welcome to the Homeless Liaison list. This listserv is a communication between the SD-DOE State Homeless Coordinator and the school districts' liaisons. Periodically, you will be receiving a short newsletter pertaining to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. If you have questions or comments, please direct them to Laura.Johnson-Frame@state.sd.us. Where it is appropriate, your questions and comments will be shared with all liaisons across South Dakota.

*Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program
Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
Amended by NCLB Act of 2001*

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South Dakota Interagency Council on Homelessness Holds Summit

You are invited to attend! The South Dakota Interagency Council on Homelessness is sponsoring a Homeless Summit in Chamberlain on April 24-25, 2006. There is no registration fee. Attached to this email is a brochure with information about registration and the program. This is the first conference sponsored by the Council. The Department of Education has a representative on the council and the Department will also be represented at the conference during the panel discussion on the afternoon of April 24.

The Interagency Council is made up of state agencies appointed by the Governor in 2003. The agencies are to collaborate and find effective strategies for prevention, public education, and in working with advocacy groups, business and faith-based organizations to help individuals find training, housing, employment and transportation.

To register go to www.housingforthehomeless.org website. Housing for the Homeless Consortium is a partner in the work of the council. The Department of Education is represented on that consortium also. The Consortium is made up of agencies (most are non-government agencies) from all over the state and meets several times a year. The Consortium also works with the SD Housing Authority in putting together the annual request for HUD funds called the Continuum of Care Application for housing.

Why are educators concerned about homelessness? Approximately 40% of homeless people in the USA are children under the age of 5. There are about 2.5 million homeless children identified each year in this country. All of the displaced families from Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita were/are homeless. South Dakota schools identify many hundreds of homeless students each year. That's why homelessness is of concern to educators.

As a homeless liaison for your school district, you provide the direct link between children and youth experiencing homelessness and their enrollment in school and in securing the needed services that go beyond education. We encourage you to attend

this Summit to become more aware of your duties in helping your school district meet the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Law.

Need more information, call or write. Thanks

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